

5 February 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR: Executive Secretary, NFIB

FROM: Chm/IHC

SUBJECT: Revision of DCIDs

1. I have reviewed and given careful consideration to your proposed changes to my original draft. I agreed with most of the changes which you suggested and incorporated them into a revised draft which I submit herewith. The only proposed changes which I did not agree with involve the retention of some of the existing DCID 1/4 language which you proposed to strike from the paragraph on functions. My rationale for doing so is set out below.

2. The fundamental reason for the proposed retention in each specific case is that I do not believe that it is the intention of this revision, nor that it would be desirable, to materially reduce the substantive areas of competence of the committee nor the authority previously delegated to it. If that is the case, then I am of the opinion that deletion of specifics contained in the present DCID can and probably will be construed by some to imply a withdrawal of those areas from the purview of the committee. If we were writing on a clean slate, the omission of specifics could be readily subsumed under generalities. However, this is not the case. Actually achieving some of the objectives for which the committee was established is difficult enough without having to argue over whether it is within the charter of the committee to even attempt to deal with a specific problem.

3. The reasons for retaining each specific item are as follows:

a. First, and most importantly, subparagraph (a) under "Functions" now reads as follows:

"To formulate and recommend to the Director of Central Intelligence objectives, policies, plans and programs relating to the establishment of an Intelligence Community information handling system."

You proposed striking it in its entirety on the ground that it was adequately covered under the general mission statement. However, the mission statement as it now reads only says to advise the DCI on "objectives" and "coordinate" their achievement.

It is true that the function statement is slightly redundant in that it now states that the committee is to formulate and recommend objectives--as well as "policies, plans and programs." To avoid redundancy I propose deleting from the present wording of subparagraph (a) the word "objectives" but to retain the words "policies, plans and programs."

The formulation and proclamation of Community objectives can easily become a relatively sterile exercise if not followed up with policies, plans and programs required to achieve those objectives. Whereas the words "coordinate their achievement" can be construed to include the responsibilities in question, it is a vague phrase which could support an opposite interpretation, especially in the way "coordinate" is often used in DOD to require absolute unanimity to accomplish anything. The committee recognizes that it should not concern itself with plans and programs internal to individual components. However, there are significant DCI objectives relating to the interagency exchange of information with which no single agency is competent to deal. It is the proper role of the committee to formulate and recommend to the DCI policies, plans and programs in these areas and, once approved, to monitor and coordinate their implementation. It is now generally accepted that this was the purpose for which the committee was formed. If this is to continue, then this language should be retained. If not, then a substantial redefinition of the role of the committee may be implied. If the latter is intended, then I should be so informed and be provided an opportunity to make the case against such a radical change.

b. I do not agree that subparagraphs (d), (e), and (f) of my first draft are properly subordinate to (c). Also, there is an apparent significant substantive change involved in the form you propose. Whereas the present language in regard to standards authorizes the committee to "develop and promulgate" standards, making this subordinate to subparagraph (b) could be construed to limiting the committee's function in this area to recommending such standards. Again, if the committee's activities in this area are heretoforth only to be to recommend rather than to establish authoritative standards, this represents a considerable diminution of the authority of the committee, which I would not recommend.

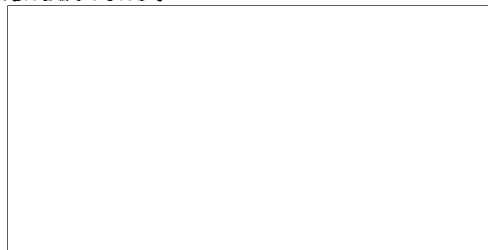
c. I agree that the language you suggest, combined with what was already in subparagraph (d) is sufficient for a data standards program in lieu of DCID 1/15. In the interests of further compaction I have combined what you suggested as subparagraph (m) with subparagraph (d).

d. Although I agree that subparagraphs (g) and (h) are not absolutely necessary, I again would not like the implication that their excision has reduced the scope of the committee's functions. I particularly think that if one of the objectives of the committee is to be the elimination of "unwarranted duplication of files and processing" (which certainly should be the case), then some mention of this should remain. There is a turf problem and the committee needs specific authority to venture onto this nettlesome ground. Therefore, I am suggesting that we combine the essentials of the language of these two subparagraphs with subparagraph (b) of which they are subsets. This achieves further compaction without substantive change.

3. I will appreciate very much your comments or, hopefully, your agreement with this draft as soon as possible. The committee meets on 9-10 February to consider this matter, and I would like to be in a position to place before them a draft that you and I can both join in recommending to Admiral Inman for his consideration. Of course, if the committee comes forward with pertinent suggestions for improvement, we will have to give those due consideration before submitting our final recommendations.

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Attachment: a/s



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